

BMDA Pleural Catheter Drainage Guidelines Lung and Thoracic Surgical Oncology

- Please keep a logbook of your drainage numbers and remember to take it to your doctor's visit.
- Drain daily up to 1 liter per day - may abort drainage attempt if symptoms such as persistent chest pain, worsening shortness of breath develop. Re-attempt the following day.
- If draining 200 milliliters (ml) or less of fluid for 3 consecutive days, notify MD/APP/RN office at BMDA of drainage amounts, they will instruct you about any changes in drainage schedule

At some point, a noticeably smaller volume of fluid may flow through your catheter. Drainage may even stop. This is **usually** a good sign that means:

- The space around your lung is nearly closed.
- Fluid will no longer build up in your chest.

However, a noticeably smaller volume of fluid may also be a sign that your catheter has become blocked and needs to be replaced. Your symptoms are important. Certain changes may tell you whether drainage has stopped:

- Because treatment was successful, or
- Your shortness of breath and cough has returned or worsened.

Your catheter may be blocked if:

- You can only drain small amounts of fluid, and
- Your shortness of breath has returned or worsened.

Call your doctor and please have your logbook available. Based upon the information provided, further instructions regarding drainage or an appointment will be shared with you.

Emergency Center

In case of any emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency center. *For non-emergencies during business hours, call our triage line at 904-202-7300 option 3.*

Adapted from Intrapleural Catheter Post Procedure Education

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